

# TYPES OF SOIL

**Silty Soil**—noted to be one of the most fertile. It is made up of minerals including a predominance of quartz and other organically fine particles. It contains more nutrients than does the sandy type but still can provide excellent drainage. It appears as dark sand when dry with a rather even surface. The silty soil has a weak structure which makes it easier to turn when it is moist and it also maintains the moisture well.

**Loamy Soil**—is thought of as the perfect soil. This type is a combined mixture of approximately 40% sand, 40% silt, and 20% clay. The workability can go from easy because of the large amount of organic substance to a dense packed one. This type seems to drain well but retains its moisture and still rich in nutrients which makes it excellent for cultivating.

**Peaty Soil**—contains plus more organic material than others in these classifications. It does not have as many nutrients and retains too much water. The use of a good fertilizer and watching the drainage problem can result in some great plant growth. This fertilizer, in order to produce the proper nutrients, should include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and lime.

**Chalky Soil**—alkaline and light brown in color. It usually contains large amounts of stone in many sizes and shapes. This type dries quickly during the summer season and can block trace elements like iron and manganese making it difficult for plants to absorb any of these elements. This will result in poor growth stimulation and often times appears as yellowing leaves. It is very poor quality and requires large amounts of fertilizers and other things to improve the soil.

# TOOLS FOR BACKYARD FARMING



- Garden hose—as drip irrigation
  - Water—to hydrate plants
  - Soil—see soil types
- Woodchips—to keep soil moist
- Seeds—determined by gardener's preference and local climate